



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Session 1: International Scientific Collaboration

Speakers:

Professor Sir Andrew Pollard

Director, Oxford Vaccine Group, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity, University of Oxford

Dr Tonya Villafana

Vice President, Global Franchise Head, Vaccines and Immune Therapies, AstraZeneca

(no paper)

Session 1: International scientific collaboration

Professor Sir Andrew Pollard and Dr Tonya Villafana will offer their perspectives both on what the unprecedented COVID-19 research effort can teach us about the current nature of international collaboration, and what ongoing impact the pandemic will have in shaping the challenges and opportunities of the future. There will be a question and answer session for the Presidents to discuss these issues with the speakers.

Speakers



Professor Sir Andrew Pollard

*Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity,
Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of
Oxford*

Sir Andrew is Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford and an honorary consultant paediatrician at Oxford Children's Hospital and Fellow of St Cross College. He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2021 for services to Public Health, especially in the pandemic.

His research includes the design, development and clinical evaluation of vaccines in UK, Asia, Africa and Latin America, including those for COVID-19, typhoid,

meningococcus, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, pneumococcus, plague, pertussis, influenza, rabies, coronavirus and Ebola. He leads studies using a human challenge model of paratyphoid and typhoid. He was the chief investigator for the clinical trials of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in 2020, which led to authorisation of the vaccine for use in more than 175 countries with over 2.5 billion doses distributed by the end of 2021. He has supervised 37 PhD students and his publications includes over 500 manuscripts and books on various topics in paediatrics and infectious diseases.

His seminal work on typhoid supported the WHO prequalification of a new typhoid conjugate vaccine and WHO recommendations for its use in countries with a high burden of disease. He chairs the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (since 2013), and was a member of WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (2016–2022). He chaired the Scientific Advisory Group on Vaccines at the European Medicines Agency (2012–2020). He chaired the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) meningitis guidelines development group (2006–2010), and the NICE topic expert group developing quality standards for management of meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia (2011–2013). He has been a member of the British Commission on Human Medicines' Clinical Trials, Biologicals and Vaccines expert advisory group since 2013. He was Vice-Master of St Cross College, Oxford, 2017–2021. He was also an NIHR senior investigator (2018–2021).

He received the "Science Honor and Truth Award" of the Instituto de Patologia en la Altura in La Paz, Bolivia in 2002. He received the Bill Marshall Award of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Disease (ESPID) in 2013, the ESPID Distinguished Award for Education and Communication in 2015 and the Rosén von Rosenstein medal in 2019 awarded by the Swedish Paediatric Society and the Swedish Society of Medicine. Most recently, he received the Oxford University Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Award in 2020 for his work on typhoid vaccines.

He was elected to the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2016 and was awarded honorary membership of the British Society for Immunology in 2021 and associate membership of the National School of Healthcare Science (2022). He previously chaired the scientific panel of the Spencer Dayman Meningitis Laboratories Charitable Trust (2002–2006) and was a member of the scientific committee of the Meningitis Research Foundation (2009–2014). He is currently chair of trustees of the Knoop Trust, and a trustee of the Jenner Vaccine Foundation and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra Trust. He made the first British ascent of Jaonli (6632m) in 1988 and Chamlang in 1991 (7309m) and was the Deputy leader of the successful 1994 British Medical Everest Expedition.



Dr Tonya Villafana

*Vice President, Global Franchise Head,
Vaccines and Immune Therapies,
AstraZeneca*

Dr. Tonya Villafana has dedicated her career to developing vaccines and medicines against some of the most difficult infectious diseases and sought to improve global health through significant contributions spanning the public, non-governmental and private sectors. In her current role as Vice President, Global Franchise Head, Vaccine & Immune Therapies at AstraZeneca, Dr. Villafana has led the

accelerated late-stage development of Vaxzevria (COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca), working closely with the University of Oxford, health authorities, the US government, US National Institutes of Health and COVAX (a partnership between CEPI, Gavi, WHO and UNICEF), to enable broad and equitable access to the vaccine around the world. This complex development program has enabled supply of more than 2.6 billion doses in more than 180 countries around the world in just 20 months.

During her 13 years with AstraZeneca, Dr. Villafana has led late-stage development for a number of vaccine and monoclonal antibody infectious disease programs including nirsevimab, a novel monoclonal antibody for the prevention of RSV disease in all infants. From 2011-2013, she was seconded to the World Bank and served as the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) World Bank Fellow. In this role, Dr. Villafana supported the Global Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Initiative with a focus on strengthening regulatory systems in Africa and co-authored the Bank's position on Non-Communicable Diseases for the 2011 UN High Level Meeting on NCDs. Prior to joining AstraZeneca, Dr. Villafana was Director of Portfolio Management at the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), where she had oversight of MVI's vaccine candidate portfolio. She served as Chair of MVI's Portfolio Management Committee and was a member of the RTS malaria vaccine team (GSK's Mosquirix, which received positive scientific opinion from the EMA), leading teams for PATH in Tanzania and Gabon. From 2001-2006 Tonya was the Site Director of the HIV Vaccine Initiative at the Botswana Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative Partnership for HIV Research and Education in Gaborone, Botswana, where she established clinical sites to conduct the first HIV vaccine studies in the southern African nation, in collaboration with the US NIH HIV Vaccine Trials Network. While in Botswana, she served on the Botswana National HIV Vaccine Committee collaborating with local and international institutions including WHO, the Debswana Mining company and Botswana Police Service.

Dr. Villafana has served on several important scientific committees and advisory boards including the Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance, International Society of Vaccines and the NIH Integrated Preclinical/Clinical Vaccine Development Program. She has worked closely on global health

initiatives with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PAHO, WHO, IFPMA, and UK Development Agency for International Development. She was appointed a Fellow of the International Society of Vaccines in 2021.

She received a PhD in immunology from Weill Cornell University Graduate School of Medical Sciences and an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Villafana is committed to developing novel vaccines and drugs to prevent diseases in the most vulnerable populations around the world.